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Revision I progress report june 1976 City planing Bortelley ASTER PLAN

ETINGS AND ACTION

(including Waterfront).

The Planning Commission holds a special meeting almost every Monday night in an effort to complete a revised Master Plan by July 31, 1976. They are considering proposals submitted to them by the Master Plan Revision Committee, comments made at a series of public hearings, as well as staff recommendations. They have given preliminary approval to an INTRODUCTION and a LAND USE ELEMENT, including a Land Use Map. They have adopted and transmitted to the Council a complete Housing Element. Currently under review are the Transportation and Open Space Elements,

Other Elements scheduled for inclusion in the completed Plan are Noise, Seismic Safety and Citizen Participation. After preliminary versions of all the individual Elements are approved, the Planning Commission will review a draft of the complete Master Plan before sending it to the City Council. The Commission anticipates holding public hearings in the Fall.

In the area of zoning, the Commission will forward to Council recommendations for zoning changes. Most of these recommendations will be described in everyday language and included in the issues to be considered during public hearings; after public comment zoning changes to be recommended by the Planning Commission will be drafted in Ordinance form.

In a parallel study effort funded by a 701 Planning Assistance Grant, the Comprehensive Planning Department is developing information needed for the preparation of Social and Economic Elements of the Plan.

BERKELEY TODAY

The INTRODUCTION to the new Plan describes Berkeley as it is today, in the context of its history, geographic location, population and economy. It describes the purpose of a Master Plan--to guide public and private decisions which affect Berkeley's development and character, pointing out that the City Council is the prime user of the Plan. As the Commission completes its review of the various Plan elements, a major emphasis will be placed on citizen participation and increased responsiveness to the needs of people now living in Berkeley--needs for jobs, housing, open space, safety from natural hazards and enlarge opportunities for involvement in planning for positive change in the community.

GOALS

To this end, GOALS for the City have been laid out to preserve the unique social and physical character of Berkeley; to enable all Berkeleyans to obtain decent housing, suitable employment, public services, recreational and cultural facilities and essential personal goods and services; to preserve Berkeley's traditional regional roles; to make local government open, accessible and responsive to the needs of all Berkeley citizens; and to improve the City's financial position by fostering appropriate economic activity and development.

HOUSING ELEMENT TO COUNCIL

Housing issues in the six-page BACKGROUND SECTION set the stage for the GOALS agreed upon by the Commission:

> 1) Berkeley residents have a right to decent housing in pleasant neighborhoods which meet standards of adequacy at a range of prices they can afford;

- 2) Existing housing should be maintained and improved;
- 3) Berkeley should have an adequate supply of housing throughout the City for persons with special needs;
- 4) All residents should have equal access to housing opportunities, financing and insurance on a non-discriminatory basis;
- 5) Without causing or increasing housing problems for other Berkeley residents, the University of California should take responsibility for housing needs of its students and staff which cannot reasonably be accommodated by the private housing market;
- 6) Berkeley should expand the role of neighborhood residents and community organizations in the planning process involving planning for housing conservation and development;
- 7) As needed new housing developed in accordance with density and environmental standards, should be built to expand housing opportunities in Berkeley.

A number of policies support these seven goals.

The IMPLEMENTATION SECTION describes an initial program and outlines longer range concepts. It is premised on the following:

- -- Provide a framework in which short range activities are related to overall goals and policies and on-going processes for planning and delivery of housing programs.
- -- Emphasize the conservation of existing housing so it can continue to provide sound housing at a reasonable cost.

- -- Coordinate actions of financial institutions, public agencies and private organizations involved in housing.
- -- Integrate citizen participation and neighborhood development into housing programs.
- -- Scale programs to the needs of the present population.

Copies are available at the Comprehensive Planning Department.

LAND USE ELEMENT

The Land Use Element was given preliminary approval by the Planning Commission on May 19. It lays out policies covering residential, industrial, commercial and institutional uses; the University of California; and special concerns.

The CITY-WIDE LAND USE POLICIES include:

- -- Policies to preserve the character of the City;
- -- Policies to assure that residential areas are safe, attractive and healthy;
- -- Policies to assure the usefulness and vitality of commercial areas; and
- -- Policies to improve the industrial area and encourage new industrial development.

Under the section on UNIVERSITY OF CALIFOR-NIA are policies to continue and expand mutual cooperation between the University and the City.

The section on SPECIAL CONCERNS includes policies on:

- -- North Berkeley BART Station
- -- Ashby BART Station
- -- Hearst Strip
- -- Santa Fe Right-of-Way
- -- Corporation Yard
- -- Civic Center Complex
- -- University of California offcampus properties
- -- School for the Deaf and Blind
- -- Central Business District

Policies for the geographic distribution of land uses are expressed graphically on the Land Use Plan Map. The Map does not portray the specific use of each parcel of land, but shows the predominant future generalized use and residential densities in various areas.

Policies on resolution of land use conflicts, improvements in existing development, accommodation of needed new development, and provision of effective citizen participation are expressed in written statements. The statements and the Land Use Map are corollary and should be viewed as a whole.

This <u>Progress Report</u> is being mailed to merchant associations, neighborhood organizations and various City-wide groups. Because of budget constraints and the high cost of postage, only one copy will be sent to each organization, so please share it with your group.

As the Elements receive preliminary approval from the Planning Commission, they will be available as soon as they can be duplicated. Copies of the HOUSING ELEMENT are available now at the Comprehensive Planning Department, 2030 Milvia Street, Berkeley, California. 644-6777

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